

Message Text

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TO USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238987

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF BOOK, "THE KGB"

1. "THE KGB" BY JOHN BARRON IS A CAREFULLY RESEARCHED BUT JOURNALISTIC COMPENDIUM OF PREVIOUSLY KNOWN SOVIET INTELLIGENCE CASES, SEVERAL OF WHICH HAD BEEN PUBLISHED INDEPENDENTLY EARLIER. THE THRUST OF BARRON'S TREATMENT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, IS CORRECT, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ERRORS IN DETAIL AND INTERPRETATION. WRITTEN FOR A MASS CIRCULATION AUDIENCE, THE BOOK'S COLORFUL STYLE UNIFORMLY EMPHASIZES THE WORST CASE INTERPRETATION OF THE DANGERS OF COMMUNIST SUBVERSION. AUTHOR BARRON IS A LONGTIME ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF READERS' DIGEST, WHICH SPONSORED PUBLICATION OF "THE KGB."

2. THE BOOK WAS PREPARED, AS PREFACE NOTES, IN COOPERATION WITH SEVERAL FORMER USG INTERNAL SECURITY OFFICIALS, ALONG WITH THOSE OF OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS. THE LIST OF PRESUMED AGENTS IS NOT COMPREHENSIVE, AND INCLUDES A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AGAINST WHOM ONLY UNPROVED ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. AS IN THE MIDDLE EAST STORY, THE SOVIET PROTAGONISTS MAY BE A COMPOSITE OF

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SEVERAL KGB AGENTS SOME OF WHOM HAVE DEFECTED.

3. NEITHER THE PORTRAYAL OF THE CASES NOR THE LIST OF
AGENTS SHOULD BE CONSTRUED AS REPRESENTING OFFICIAL USG
VIEWS. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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